

Colonel H.B. Wright House
Plymouth, Pennsylvania.

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Ralph W. Lear, District Officer
311-312 Dime Bank Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

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COLONEL H.B. WRIGHT HOUSE
Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner

Glen Alden Coal Company, South River St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Date of Erection

1807.

Builder

Joseph Wright.

Present Condition

Poor.

Number of Stories

Two and one-half stories.

Materials of Construction

Foundations are stone; frame construction; wood lath and plaster on interior. Roof was wood shingles over wood lath, nailed to rafters.

COLONEL H.B. WRIGHT HOUSE
Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

The Wright House, situated at #843 West Main St., Plymouth, Pennsylvania, is a frame structure, of the type prevalent in this territory, some years ago. The house was erected about 1807, by Joseph Wright.

Joseph Wright was born May 2, 1785, and was ten years old, when his parents removed from Wrightsville, to the "Susquehanna country". He married in 1807, and established a small store in Plymouth. He, alone of his family, remained in Wyoming Valley. He lived in Plymouth for more than half a century, and during that period, was intimately connected with it's government, and was one of it's representative men. He was the second mercantile proprietor there, but was in business only a short time, as he devoted himself chiefly to farming pursuits.

For two hundred years, his ancestors had been Friends, and he steadily adhered to that faith, notwithstanding the fact of his expulsion from the Society, because he married outside the limits of his Church, and contrary to his discipline.

Hendrick Bradley Wright, eldest son of Joseph Wright, was born in this home, in 1808. He spent his youth at home, with his parents, assisting his father on the farm, and attending winter terms of school at Plymouth, but he then laid the foundation of his college course, and in the fall of 1826, entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle. He was a student there, until the end of his Junior year, when he left college, and took up the study of law in the office of Mr. John N. Conyngham, of Wilkes-Barre, and was admitted to practise, November 8, 1831.

About a year after his admission to the bar, Mr. Wright was appointed Deputy Attorney General for Luzerne County, and in November, 1833, he was reappointed. In August, 1835, he resigned on the grounds that he was "politically opposed to the state administration".

At this time, the anti-Masonic party was at the zenith of its' power in Pennsylvania. Mr. Wright, then twenty-seven years of age, took an active part in the councils and conventions of this party in Luzerne County, during the campaign of that year.

In June, 1835, he was elected and commissioned Colonel of the Wyoming Volunteer Regiment, second Brigade, eighth district, Pennsylvania Militia, which commission he held until 1842, with the exception of the time given to politics.

Colonel Wright devoted himself closely to the practise of law, during the years following his admission to the bar. His success in trial courts before a jury, was somewhat remarkable. In 1837 and 1840, he was a member of the town council of Wilkes-Barre; and for one year, was Burgess of the Borough.

In 1840, he was elected to the Lower House of the State Legislature, and at once, became a prominent member of that body. One of the leaders of the House, he was reelected in 1841, and was Chairman of the Committee on Canals and Internal Improvements, and member of the Judiciary Committee. In 1842, he was offered a seat in the Senate, but refused; and was reelected to the Lower House for a third term.

In October, 1850, he was a Democratic candidate for Congress, but was defeated. Two years later, he was elected. In 1856, Colonel Wright was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention, and was elected its' Chairman.

In March, 1863, at the close of the thirty-seventh Congress, Colonel Wright returned to his extensive law practise, which per force, he had laid aside, during the period of his public service. Among other things, he turned himself to literary pursuits, and published in 1871, a "Practical Treatise on Labor", which originally appeared in a series of articles in the "Anthracite Monitor", under the nom de plume of "Vindicator". In April, 1873, was published his "Historical Sketches of Plymouth".

In 1876, he was made a candidate for Congress and was elected that year, and reelected in 1878. In 1881, Colonel Wright closed his political life, after a service of eleven years in the State and National Legislature, and with his retirement from public life, he also gave up his business and professional pursuits, and retired to his residence on the shores of Shawanese Lake, about twelve miles from Wilkes-Barre.

He was president of the Wyoming Historical and Geographical Society, from 1870 to 1872.

He married in 1835, at Wilkes-Barre. Mrs. Wright grew mulberry trees for her silk worms on the grounds of this residence.

Colonel Wright died in September, 1881.

The residence is two stories high in front, with a one- and one-half story wing in the rear. The foundations are stone, and the superstructure consists of 4 x 4 studs, approximately thirty-six inches on center, braced and covered with wood siding on exterior, and wood lath and plaster, on the interior. The roof was wood shingles over wood lath, nailed to rafters.

Entrances on front elevation, are nicely designed and the remains of the porch at one of the entrances, show that it also, was well proportioned.

The interior is in very poor condition and has been greatly altered from time to time, so that much of the old detail has been destroyed.

Historic information obtained from: "The Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys" by: Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, M.A. and Hon. Alfred Hand, M.A. and John W. Jordan, L.L.D.

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